

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 22-28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 19 and 20 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of applying a coating to a surface of a substrate, said method comprising the successive [[the]] steps of:

(i) applying a polymer material to the said substrate surface to form at least part of the coating;

(ii) fluorinating the surface of said coating on the substrate and/or;

(iii) curing at least part of the said coating.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the polymer material is applied by any or any combination of spin coating, solvent casting, dipping, spraying, plasma deposition, ~~atomisation~~ atomization or chemical vapour deposition.

Claim 3 (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the polymer material includes homopolymers and copolymers.

Claim 4 (original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the polymeric components occur singly, in combination with one another or in the presence of non-polymeric additives.

Claim 5 (original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the components of polymer blends are miscible or immiscible.

Claim 6 (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the polymer material includes unsaturated bonds.

Claim 7 (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the polymer material is a blend with one component of the blend crosslinkable.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the polymer coating forms at least part of the outer surface of the coating applied to the substrate.

Claim 9 (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the polymer coating forms part of the coating applied to the substrate surface.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the polymer material foams only part of the outer surface of the coating.

Claim 11 (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the outermost surface of the coating comprises domains or patterns of polymer material containing unsaturated bonds surrounded by areas consisting of a non-polymeric material or a different polymer material.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the coating comprises additional layers supplementary to the outermost surface layer which consists of combinations of materials.

Claim 13 (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the fluorination of the coating is achieved by selective exposure of the same to atomic, molecular or ionic fluorine containing species.

Claim 14 (original) A method according to claim 13 wherein a plasma is used to generate fluorinating species and the coated substrate is disposed within the plasma or exposed to fluorinating species created by a remotely located plasma.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the curing of the ~~fluorinated surface~~ which is fluorinated in accordance with step (ii) affects the cross-linking of the unmodified, unsaturated polymer below the ~~fluorinated~~ said

surface and the degree of fluorination and roughened surface morphology imparted by the fluorination are substantially unaffected by the curing process.

Claim 16 (original) A method according to the claim 15 wherein the method of curing used is any or any combination of heating, VUV radiation, UV radiation, electron beam irradiation or exposure to ionising radiations.

Claim 17 (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the fluorination and curing step include the control of the temperature of the polymer film during the fluorination procedure.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A method for applying a coating having liquid repellent characteristics to a substrate, said method comprising the successive steps of:

applying a coating to the substrate surface, said coating ~~have at least an outer layer of a~~ being formed from a polymer of which the outer layer includes ~~including~~ unsaturated bonds[.,,];

fluorinating said polymer; ~~being fluorinated~~ and
curing said polymer; ~~cured and~~

wherein at least one of the fluorination and/~~or~~ curing is performed on the polymer material in a selected pattern so as to provide selectively fluorinated and/or cured portions and selectively unfluorinated and/or uncured portions of said coating.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A method according to claim 18 wherein the selection made is to ~~completely~~ fluorinate ~~and cure~~ the whole area of the polymer material of the coating and selectively cure the coating on only a portion of the substrate.

Claim 20 (currently amended) A method according to claim 19 wherein the selective pattern of fluorination and/or curing on the substrate surface coating is achieved with the use of a spacially resolved means of curing and/or fluorination such as an ion beam, electron or laser beam or via ~~masking~~ masking which matches the selective pattern of fluorination and/or curing required.

Claim 21 (original) A method according to claim 20 wherein the mask includes a series of apertures, said apertures, when said mask is placed over the said coating, defining the areas of said coating which are to be fluorinated and/or cured.

Claims 22-28 (cancelled)